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*topically applied*

wherein said at least one <sup>*topically applied*</sup> nitric oxide synthase inhibitor is present in an amount effective to reduce the cutaneous irritant effect of said at least one cosmetic or pharmaceutical product.

32. A composition according to claim 31, wherein said pharmaceutical composition is a dermatological composition.

33. A composition according to claim 31, wherein said at least one nitric oxide synthase inhibitor is present in a concentration ranging from  $10^{-6}\%$  to 10% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

34. A composition according to claim 33, wherein said at least one nitric oxide synthase inhibitor is present in a concentration ranging from  $10^{-4}\%$  to 1% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

35. A composition according to claim 31, wherein said at least one cosmetic or pharmaceutical product is a preservative, a surfactant, a perfume, a solvent or a propellant.

36. A composition according to claim 35, wherein said at least one cosmetic or pharmaceutical product is a sunscreen, an  $\alpha$ -hydroxy acid, a  $\beta$ -hydroxy acid, an  $\alpha$ -

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keto acid, a  $\beta$ -keto acid, a retinoid, an anthralin, an anthranoid, a peroxide, minoxidil or one of its derivatives, a lithium salt, an antiproliferative agent, vitamin D or one of its derivatives, vitamin B9 or one of its derivatives, a hair dye, a hair colorant, capsaicin, a perfuming alcoholic solution, an antiperspirant, a depilatory waving active agent, a permanent waving active agent, a depigmenting agent, an antilouse active agent, a detergent or a propigmenting agent.

37. A composition according to claim 36, wherein said  $\beta$ -hydroxy acid is salicylic acid or one of its derivatives.

38. A composition according to claim 36, wherein said at least one cosmetic or pharmaceutical product is a retinoid.

39. A composition according to claim 38, wherein said retinoid is all-trans-retinoic acid, 13-*cis*-retinoic acid, 2-(5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-5,5,8,8-tetramethyl-2-naphthyl)-6-benzo[b]thiophenecarboxylic acid, 6-[3-(1-adamantyl)-4-methoxyphenyl]-2-naphthanoic acid, or 3-Pyridinecarboxylic acid.

40. A composition according to claim 36, wherein said vitamin D or one of its derivatives is vitamin D<sub>3</sub>, vitamin D<sub>2</sub>, 1,25-diOH vitamin D<sub>3</sub>, calcipotriol, 1,24-diOH vitamin D<sub>3</sub>, 24,25-diOH vitamin D<sub>3</sub>, 1-OH vitamin D<sub>2</sub> or 1,24-diOH vitamin D<sub>2</sub>.

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41. A composition according to claim 40, wherein said 1,24-diOH vitamin D<sub>3</sub> is tacalcitol.

42. A composition according to claim 37, wherein said salicylic acid derivative is 5-n-octanoylsalicylic acid, 5-n-dodecanoylsalicylic acid or one of their esters.

43. A composition according to claim 31, wherein said at least one nitric oxide synthase inhibitor is an inhibitor of constitutive nitric oxide synthase.

44. A composition according to claim 43, wherein said inhibitor of constitutive nitric oxide synthase is an inhibitor of endothelial nitric oxide synthase.

45. A composition according to claim 43, wherein said at least one nitric oxide synthase inhibitor is N<sup>G</sup>-monomethyl-L-arginine, the methyl ester of N<sup>G</sup>-nitro-L-arginine, N<sup>G</sup>-nitro-L-arginine, N<sup>G</sup>-amino-L-arginine, or N<sup>G</sup>,N<sup>G</sup>-dimethylarginine.

46. A composition according to claim 45, wherein said at least one nitric oxide synthase inhibitor is the methyl ester of N<sup>G</sup>-nitro-L-arginine, N<sup>G</sup>,N<sup>G</sup>-dimethylarginine, N<sup>G</sup>-nitro-L-arginine or N<sup>G</sup>-monomethyl-L-arginine.

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47. A composition according to claim 31, wherein said composition is formulated in order to be applied topically to the skin, the scalp or the mucous membranes.

48. A method of reducing the cutaneous irritant effect of a topically applied cosmetic or pharmaceutical composition containing at least one cosmetic or pharmaceutical product capable of having an irritant character on the skin, the scalp, the nails or the mucous membranes, said method comprising applying said cosmetic or pharmaceutical product to said skin, scalp, nails or mucous membranes, wherein said cosmetic or pharmaceutical composition further comprises at least one nitric oxide synthase inhibitor in an amount effective to reduce the cutaneous irritant effect of said at least one cosmetic or pharmaceutical product.

49. A method according to claim 48, wherein said at least one nitric oxide synthase inhibitor is present in a concentration ranging from 10<sup>-6</sup>% to 10% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

50. A method according to claim 49, wherein said at least one nitric oxide synthase inhibitor is present in a concentration ranging from 10<sup>-4</sup>% to 1% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

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51. A method according to claim 50, wherein said at least one cosmetic or pharmaceutical product is a preservative, a surfactant, a perfume, a solvent or a propellant.

52. A method according to claim 48, wherein said at least one cosmetic or pharmaceutical product is a sunscreen, an  $\alpha$ -hydroxy acid, a  $\beta$ -hydroxy acid, an  $\alpha$ -keto acid, a  $\beta$ -keto acid, a retinoid, an anthralin, an anthranoid, a peroxide, minoxidil or one of its derivatives, a lithium salt, an antiproliferative agent, vitamin D or one of its derivatives, vitamin B9 or one of its derivatives, a hair dye, a hair colorant, capsaicin, a perfuming alcoholic solution, an antiperspirant, a depilatory waving active agent, a permanent waving active agent, a depigmenting agent, an antilouse active agent, a detergent or a propigmenting agent.

53. A method according to claim 52, wherein said  $\beta$ -hydroxy acid is salicylic acid or one of its derivatives.

54. A method according to claim 52, wherein said at least one cosmetic or pharmaceutical product is a retinoid.

55. A method according to claim 54, wherein said retinoid is all-trans-retinoic acid, 13-cis-retinoic acid, 2-(5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-5,5,8,8-tetramethyl-2-naphthyl)-6-

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benzo[b]thiophenecarboxylic acid, 6-[3-(1-adamantyl)-4-methoxyphenyl]-2-naphthanoic acid, or 3-Pyridinecarboxylic acid.

56. A method according to claim 52, wherein said vitamin D or one of its derivatives is vitamin D<sub>3</sub>, vitamin D<sub>2</sub>, 1,25-diOH vitamin D<sub>3</sub>, calcipotriol, 1,24-diOH vitamin D<sub>3</sub>, 24,25-diOH vitamin D<sub>3</sub>, 1-OH vitamin D<sub>2</sub> or 1,24-diOH vitamin D<sub>2</sub>.

57. A method according to claim 56, wherein said 1,24-diOH vitamin D<sub>3</sub> is tacalcitol.

58. A method according to claim 53, wherein said salicylic acid derivative is 5-n-octanoylsalicylic acid, 5-n-dodecanoylsalicylic acid or one of their esters.

59. A method according to claim 48, wherein said at least one nitric oxide synthase inhibitor is an inhibitor of constitutive nitric oxide synthase.

60. A method according to claim 59, wherein said inhibitor of constitutive nitric oxide synthase is an inhibitor of endothelial nitric oxide synthase.

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